


MAY 1948

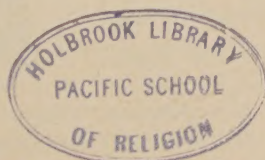
 BIBLE  
SOCIETY

# Record

**WANTED: 500,000 New Members**



"Bartimeus" is the most appropriate name of this Christian institution for blind children in Zeist, Holland. Here the children are reading from one of the volumes of the Dutch Bible in Braille (see page 70)





# 1947 in Review

AS THIS ISSUE of the *Bible Society Record* goes to press the Board of Managers' Report is just about ready for presentation to the Society's 132nd Annual Meeting, to be held on May 13. The edition of this Report is limited but copies will be sent, as long as the supply lasts, to anyone who sends ten cents to cover handling and postage.

Requests should be addressed to *Bible Society Record*, asking for "The Board of Managers' Report for 1947."

The following epitome of the work done in 1947 is reprinted from the inside front cover of the Report:

During 1947 the Society—

—distributed at home and abroad 785,767 Bibles, 2,220,614 Testaments and 6,304,058 Portions, a total of 9,310,439 volumes;

—reached a total of 17,775,649 volumes, through its Emergency program in 7½ years, distributed to service men, prisoners of war and civil populations in Europe and Asia;

—produced 150,000 Japanese Bibles, an undertaking which required the largest amount of paper ever

used in publishing a single edition of any Bible or Testament in the history of Bible production;

—printed the first edition of the Russian Bible, using the new orthography;

—exceeded all former years in its distribution of Scriptures to the blind;

—brought the total of its publication of German Scriptures since 1941 to 4,902,091, nearly all of which have been donated to the German people;

—issued more whole Bibles—829,737—from the Bible House in New York than in any preceding year;

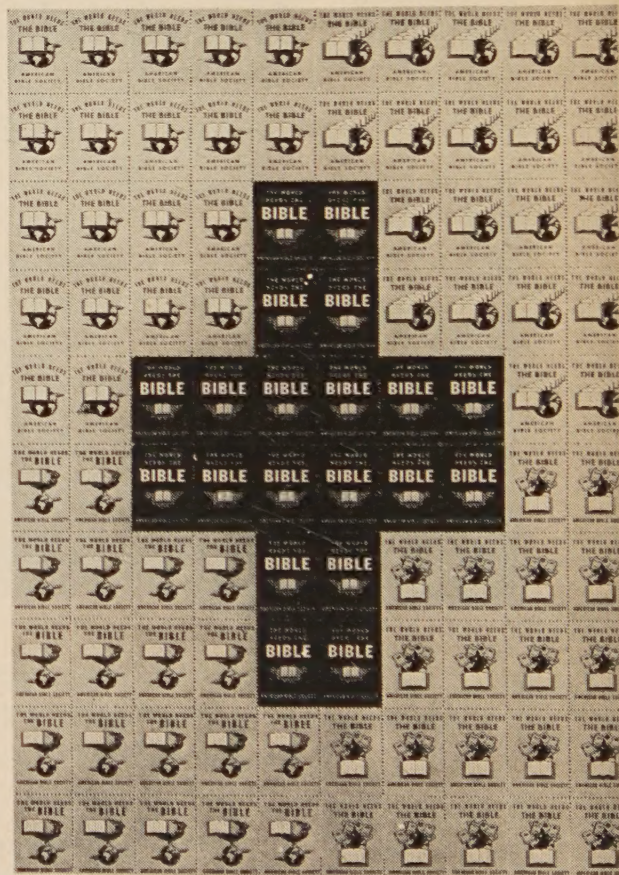
—reoccupied the reconstructed Bible House in Manila, burned out in the early days of the war;

—expanded Worldwide Bible Reading, Thanksgiving to Christmas, both nationally and internationally

—but faced the necessity of raising in 1948 \$2,010,700, in addition to its regular budget of \$1,396,496, to meet definite calls for Scriptures in Europe and Asia, where the doors are now open and the urgency great.

## "The World Needs the Bible"

EVERY Christian knows that the world needs the Bible, but countless Christians are doing nothing about it. In many cases, not because of indifference but rather because they do not know what they can do to help meet the need. Here is a way by which almost anyone can do his part. He can purchase at a dollar apiece sheets of the Bible Society's "The World Needs the Bible" Seals for 1948. By buying them and using them in correspondence and otherwise he has done two things to help meet the need: he has contributed to the Society's worldwide program and he has suggested to all who see the seals he uses that here is a way to help. Why not send for your seals today? Why not make this a Sunday-school class project? For "The World Needs the Bible!"





# Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE  
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 93 MAY · 1948 NUMBER 5

## Keeping Democracy Alive

A WELL-KNOWN radio and newspaper columnist earlier this year offered a handsome reward to the one who would write him the best brief letter on how to keep democracy alive. Quite apart from the decision of the judges in this contest, no unbiased student of history can ignore the fact that it was the open Bible in the hands of our European forebears in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries that imparted new life to thousands of plain people—a spirit which finally crystalized into the Puritan and kindred movements in a dozen European countries, precipitating the revolts against “the divine right of kings” and insisting on the recognition of the common man as the seat of political authority.

John Wycliffe, who first gave the Bible to the English people in their own tongue, is certainly one of the fathers of modern democracy. The spirit of free inquiry which he fostered in England through the study of the Bible on a wide scale became the headwaters of the stream of democracy which has never ceased flowing. In the perspective of history the movement swiftly expanded with irresistible force. When, after the invention of printing and, eventually, the Geneva Bible—the first English version to appear in small, inexpensive form—the people were able to have their own copies, the influence of the Scriptures became immeasurable. Before the Pilgrims sailed in 1620, one hundred fifty large editions of the Geneva Bible had been printed and bought up as fast as they appeared.

It is difficult for us to realize today what the Bible meant to sixteenth-century England. It was practically the only book available to the common people. There were libraries in England but they were only for the rich. Imagine a world in which there were no books of fiction, no books of history, no books of science, no biographies of any sort, no newspapers, no magazines, no religious press, no tracts. There was just one book in the home—the Bible. No wonder men's lives began to change profoundly. People began to speak in Biblical language. They gave their children Bible names. But, more important than all else, the Bible rapidly remolded their character and their conduct. Of course, reformations and revolutions followed. Of course, there was

bound to appear somewhere in England a group of people who would demand that the nation be rebuilt upon the teachings of the Bible. Of course, such a people would be hounded out of the country. And quite naturally, in the early seventeenth century such exiles would undertake to establish their new kind of nation on these shores.

The origins of our American form of democracy are, of course, more complex than this simple statement; but through them all runs this golden thread of devotion to the teachings of the Bible which puts a priceless value on the individual human soul. Democracy is not a form of government. It is a philosophy of government. It may exist under a monarchy as it does in England, provided the monarchy is a convenience of the will of the people; but basically it is a sense of spiritual independence which nerves the individual to stand alone against the powers of the world, because Christ has told him God is on his side.

All through our history this has appeared and reappeared. We could quote from Franklin, Washington, Jefferson, Adams and scores of other national figures in every field of constructive leadership. Abraham Lincoln grows in stature as the years pass; it is because he expressed so clearly in his whole being this basic concept of our national philosophy. In the darkest days of the War, Lincoln cried, “I know that there is a God and that He hates injustice and slavery . . . I know that I am right, because I know that liberty is right; for Christ teaches it, and Christ is God.”

How to keep democracy alive? The history of the last five centuries declares the answer plainly enough. Keep the Bible in the minds and hearts of the people. Against all the competition that our modern days have brought—other books, other philosophies, moving pictures, radio, television—make the Bible popular as it was in England in the sixteenth century and in America in the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The preservation of democracy has now become a world problem. But, fortunately, the Bible has also become a World Book. It has revealed its transforming power wherever and in whatever language it has



been seriously read. In the last few months the Bible has risen from being an almost unknown book in Japan to a place among the ten best sellers.

The chief responsibility for keeping democracy alive lies with American Christians. Unless it lives vigorously among us, it is sure to languish and maybe

die in many other lands. There are two things, then that we must do: keep the Bible a living force in our own nation's life, and out of our abundance supply copies of it to those in impoverished lands who aspire to nobler forms of living but who cannot provide their own copies of God's guiding Word.

## The Acts of the Apostles in Peru

*Colporteurs in the High Andes validate in their own experiences the statement in Acts 6:7, "And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied"*

BY JOHN H. TWENTYMAN

REVIEWING the year 1947, I recall what President Woodrow Wilson once said: "... To my mind the colporteurs, the agents of the Bible Society, tramping through countrysides or traveling by every sort of conveyance in every sort of land, carrying with them little cargoes of books containing the Word of God, and spreading them, seem like the shuttles in a great loom that is weaving the spirits of men together."

Our faithful colporteurs have continued their labors in all parts of Peru, under all conditions of climate and travel, always seeking to find out those who have not before heard of the Good News of salvation.

We start with colporteur Pedro Carlos Díaz. After serving with the Bible Society for a number of years, he has felt led to devote his strength more to the building up of the Church. However, he has continued to work part time with the Bible Societies and has reported many precious experiences touching the distribution of the Scriptures. Visiting among the fishermen who were washing and mending their nets on the seashore at the little town of Pisco, Colporteur Díaz says that, as he was explaining to them the salvation that is ours, it was very moving to see the interest and attention they gave to the reading of the Bible. "The truth is," he continues, "that I cannot find words to describe those moments; I can just think of what our Lord Jesus said, 'I have compassion on the multitude . . . because they were as sheep not having a shepherd.' Afterwards the majority of those present bought either Bibles, Testaments or Portions." Just as he was about to leave this group of fishermen, four others accosted him and said, 'We also wish to take the Bible with us to read, so that we may follow the truth.' So having bought their copy, they went away very happy."

Later, arriving at midnight in a town called Lomas, Colporteur Díaz visited from house to house the following morning, being very unwillingly received by a certain lady who said she was of a different faith. After securing permission, with difficulty, to read a

passage of Scripture, he turned to Eph. 5:19-33. "The lady completely changed her attitude," he said, "and remarked that she had never before heard such beautiful words." Thereupon her husband arrived, and the three of them read many other passages, including those relating to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. They were very happy to be the possessors of a complete set of New Testament portions.

Visiting the San Luís mines, Don Pedro tells of an encounter he had with a man who would have nothing to do with the Gospel. Nevertheless, after hearing the Scriptures read, God touched his heart in a remarkable way, so that, not being able to resist the working of the Spirit any longer, he said "I, too, want to give myself to the Lord. What must I do?"

Passing to the mountainous regions, where the population is largely of Indian descent and speaking one or other of the several Quéchuá dialects, Don Manuel Flórez continues his visits to the sparsely populated highlands of Southern Peru, never sparing himself but rather spending his energies, and being spent, in the work of the Lord. As a result of this continual traveling he has recently had an attack of pneumonia and is at present taking a well-earned rest to recuperate his strength. Colporteur Flórez is himself a Quéchuá-speaking Indian, and he has had much success, under the blessing of God, in distributing the Scriptures and explaining the way of salvation to his own people. On the afternoon of his arrival in a small town called Chanta, he was visited by the town authorities, together with a school teacher from a neighboring village, who came to investigate the reason for his journey to them. In reply, Don Manuel said, he took the opportunity of explaining to them the message of salvation, which they gladly received. They then made an agreement by which the whole village was to be summoned to a meeting in the main plaza in front of the church the following morning. "At the appointed hour the school teacher



and I met in the plaza in front of the Roman church, to be followed shortly afterward by men and women coming from all directions in response to the notice sent out by the authorities. They listened attentively and joyfully to the message which, until then, they had never heard." After this public meeting Colporteur Flórez visited from house to house, testifying that all was accomplished with much blessing from the Almighty.

The way of the colporteur is not always strewn with sweet-smelling roses. Don Manuel tells how in one town no one was willing to hear the Gospel message. A few bought Portions, but later returned them to him, saying that they were books for the heretics. But by contrast, when he arrived in the town of Lares a few days later, he found that the townspeople had expelled the priest for committing many injustices. Sr. Flórez went to lodge with the justice of the peace, to whom he preached the Gospel and who, together with his wife, decided to leave their evil ways and follow the Lord.

But others also have been working in the Sierra. In the populous Jauja-Huancayo valley, as well as in the mining camps of Central Peru, Don Acisclo Mesías has been carrying the message of salvation to many, and says of his experiences in this section, "We have arrived at a period when men do not make objections, save on rare occasions, nor are they opposed to the preaching of the Gospel."

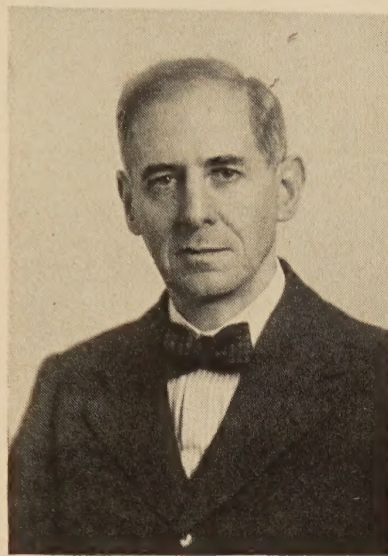
Colporteur Carlos Rodríguez, also working in Central Peru, reports a circulation of 7,177 books, which has only been possible by continuous traveling through regions varying in altitude from 3,000 feet to over 15,000 feet above sea level. Says Don Carlos, "In the distribution of the Word of God it is always a marvel to me to see how, with so little effort in explaining of the things of God, that people receive the Word with such eagerness."

As the result of an earthquake which struck the region in which Sr. Rodríguez is working, there has been a great desire on the part of many people to hear more of the things of God. The Bible Societies have therefore sent a man into the Sierra to visit these many stricken townships with the Word which God says "shall not return unto me void."

"One morning," says Colporteur Felix Jumpey, who works in the Department of Huánuco and down to the jungle, "when I went to the market to sell the Scriptures, a policeman came to stop me from doing this work. When I turned a deaf ear to what he said, he took me off to the police station and put me under arrest. After half an hour the sergeant came, to whom I explained the reason why I had been selling books in the market. I spoke to him of salvation and read certain passages of Scripture, including Luke 15. When I finished he replied, 'I am the lost sheep.'" Again, when working in the mountains, Colporteur Jumpey arrived in a village where the mayor was extremely fanatical. Nevertheless, while speaking to

him about the Scriptures, he was moved by the Spirit to offer the public hall for a meeting, where "we preached the Word of God to more than 200 people who were present."

## John Ritchie Retires



*John Ritchie*

AFTER sixteen years of service in South America with the Society, Mr. John Ritchie retired at the close of 1947. Returning before long to his native Scotland, he had served for forty-two years in various missionary capacities in Peru. His record is that of a missionary statesman. Prior to his assuming the Secretaryship of the

Society's Upper Andes Agency, now called the North Andean Agency, he had served as Chairman of the Evangelical Union of South America, had been pastor of a great church in Lima, Peru, manager of the Mission's Publishing House there, editor for sixteen years of their magazine and during ten years of this period served as the first Chairman of the Synod of the Evangelical Church in Peru.

He was the leader in the movement in the early years of the century which gave Peru freedom of worship through a constitutional amendment adopted in 1915. He organized among the Indians living in the cordillera of the interior of Peru sixty-three congregations, the nucleus of a larger group of self-supply churches now thriving in the region. Along with all this Mr. Ritchie found time to write several books, including a manual for ministers, a missionary survey of Peru entitled "The West Coast Republics," and only recently a book dealing with the problems that have engaged his thought for many years, entitled "The Indigenous Church, Principles in Theory and Practice."

From September 1931 until January 1947 Mr. Ritchie brought his rich and devoted experience to the Society's Secretaryship at Lima. Last year, at the Board's request, he served in a similar capacity in the Argentine, following the death of Rev. Paul Penzotti and until Dr. Charles W. Turner could take up his duties as the Society's Secretary there, which he did at the beginning of this year. Retirement from the field will not mean retirement from service. John Ritchie is an authority on mission work in South America, whose counsel will be sought as long as he lives.



# The Bible for the Blind Around the World

*The Secretary for the Society's Work for the Blind takes us with her for a few glimpses of the service which the Society is rendering among the countless people who live in darkness*

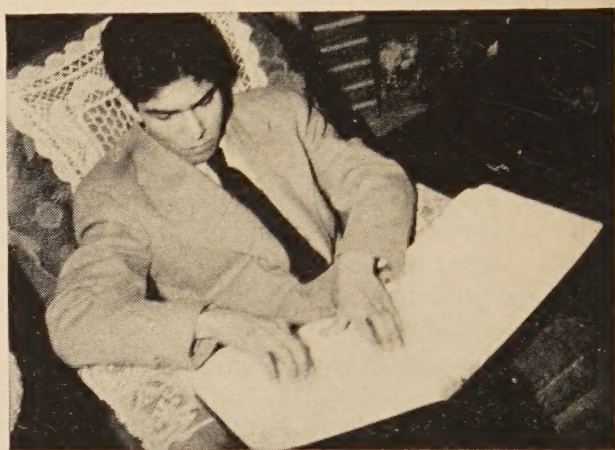
BY S. RUTH BARRETT

A DAY'S MAIL in the Blind Department at the Bible House is a bundle of inspiration intermingled with courage, thankfulness and pathos. "I want to buy a Braille Bible for my thirteen-year-old daughter. Can I buy it by the volume and begin with the New Testament? I wish to start her Bible for her birthday, which is the 22nd of this month."—"A short time ago I was informed that you handled Braille Holy Bibles for the use of the blind and I was very happy about it because I have been blind almost two years and I surely need one."—"I hope you don't think this too personal. I do so want to tell you how it was. I have been ill for several days with a bad cold and you know things look different when you're not well. This morning everything seemed to go the wrong way and the little girl who reads my mail for me said, 'This is a letter from the American Bible Society.' Then she read your letter, and your splash of sunshine drove all the clouds away. I am so happy, and now I am thanking you for your kind remembrance of me, as I know there are a number that you might have sent the Concordance to, but I assure you there is not one who would appreciate it more or be made more happy than I."—"A number of years ago, when I was quite a child, my parents got for me from your place the entire Bible in Braille. Later the house burned when we were away and, of course, the Bible with it. This Bible meant more to me than I can tell you, and having it now would mean even more, since I should have a greater understanding of it. I think we should all have the Bible in its entirety. I loved it and wish to replace it."—"I was very happy to get the rest of the volumes of the New Testament. I don't know how to thank you enough. I never thought one could miss the Bible so much. It took me two years of study, and I mean hard studying, to master the Braille. Many a cry and disappointment, but I still kept on. I only have one finger trained, so you see I have a long way to go."—"I wish to purchase some copies of the four Gospels in Spanish Braille."—"Will you kindly tell me how I can get the Braille Bible in grade two. I am deaf and blind, and the Bible will bring me much happiness and contentment."

Not only was last year the greatest in the Society's work among the blind in the United States, but aid to the blind in other lands was increased in many directions.

For the blind of Latin America the Society's popular "Small Volume of Scripture Passages," which the blind call their pocket Bible, was published in Spanish Braille and in Portuguese Braille. New editions of the Gospels of Mark, Luke and John in Spanish Braille were begun.

Early last year came the urgent appeal for the



*Fernando H. Soto is a brilliant Mexican blind boy who hopes to return to his native country to help his fellow blind there*

Scriptures in German and French Braille for the blinded war veterans and victims of France, Switzerland, Germany and Austria. The Society's Secretary Béguin in Switzerland wrote that, if the printing could be done over there, a good part of the work could be done by the blind themselves. Appropriations were made, and before the end of the year the blind had the joy of not only receiving the Gospels and other Portions of the Bible, but had a happy share in producing these most desired volumes.

Almost all of the Bible is available in Dutch Braille for the blind of Holland, bringing solace and happiness to the sightless of that stalwart little country. In one school at Zeist there are 85 blind pupils, besides blind soldiers who lost their sight in war prison camps.

From Poland comes the appeal for the Gospels in Polish Braille. It is reported that at present there are about 3,200 blind children there, a great number being victims of war. There are practically no books of any kind for the blind, all having been destroyed in the war. New editions are impossible for lack of



machinery and of the special printing paper required in the production of Braille literature. It is hoped that the Society will be able to help these unfortunate little ones.

And from Hungary comes the appeal for aid in producing the Braille Bible "in order to restore the mental balance of blinded soldiers, and in general to spread God's Word among our people deprived of sight." Large quantities of paper, besides rustless steel or zinc for the plates, and many other materials, are sorely needed in Hungary.

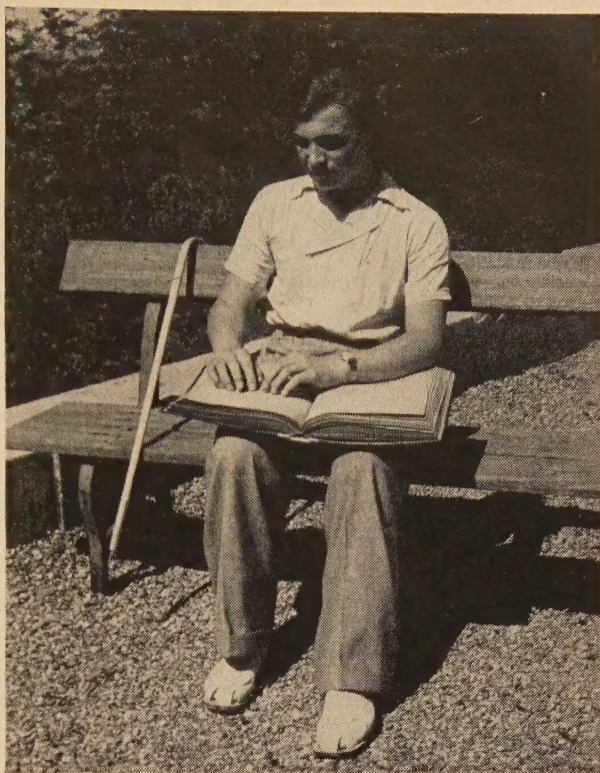
*Blind Operators producing Braille Scriptures in French and German in Lausanne, Switzerland*



In far-off China there was real joy in the Blind Girls' Home, Changsha, Hunan, upon the arrival of parcels containing 64 Kuoyü Braille New Testament Portions sent by the Society's China Bible House. In appreciation of these Bible volumes the blind girls managed to take up a collection of \$3 (U.S.) and Chinese postage stamps, and forwarded the contribution "with much prayer" to the Bible Society.

At the Yu-Kwang Blind and Deaf School in Kunming several little Chinese children have learned to read the English Braille. In response to many appeals from Mr. Loh Shu-I, superintendent of the school, there were shipped direct from the Bible House in New York to his school Portions of the Bible in English Braille (only one volume to a package). Some of these parcels have reached the school and are being greatly enjoyed by the pupils. Early in March Mr. Loh Shu-I wrote of the need for Braille Bibles and of the difficult times in China. A week later came a second letter, in which he wrote:

As I mentioned in my first letter that I have expected to get a set of Braille Bible for a long time. But it is pretty hard to change the American gold to remit to you. Thus it has been delayed till now. Yesterday afternoon I cleaned my drawers, which have been heaped up for a few years; suddenly I found a note of five American gold dollars in an envelope. Now I enclose this five-dollar note in the envelope, for which please mail to me a set of Old Testament and a few volumes of the New Testament. Thank you so much for helping us. Please send the books by return mail. There are about eighty children, con-



*Blinded by an incendiary bomb, he reads the Gospel of Matthew in French Braille*

sisting the blind and deaf. Besides, seven teachers are working with me. Though the price of everything is so high, God still keeps us and takes care of us under His wings. God bless you.

In Japan, where there are 67 schools for the blind, there is great need for the Japanese Braille Scriptures. Before the war thousands of Japanese Braille volumes of the Bible were distributed in Japan. (The Bible in Japanese Braille requires 34 large volumes.) In December the Japan Bible Society cabled for paper and binding materials for the printing of the Japanese Braille Scriptures. In response a first shipment of 5,367 pounds of special white Braille paper has been sent to Tokyo to help meet the needs of the sightless in Japan. From Yokohama comes word that the doors are wide open to receive the Gospel message.

*Mr. Loh Shu-I, Superintendent of the Yu-Kwang School for the Blind and Deaf at Kunming, China*





For the Blind of the Near East, the Bible in Arabic Braille is available. The complete Braille Bible in this language requires 32 volumes. These are distributed through the Society's Bible Lands Agency, South.

Coming back to the Bible for the blind in the homeland, the Braille Bible in English costs \$47 and is in 20 large volumes. The Society offers these expensive volumes to the blind at 25 cents each, and often as an outright gift. This is made possible through contributions to the Blind Fund.

Reading often means more to the blind than to the sighted. To those in perpetual darkness the Bible is a guiding light. The Bible is the favorite book of the blind and often the only book which they possess. They borrow other books from the library, but the Bible they want for their very own. As one blind person concluded, "I should like to take this opportunity to thank the American Bible Society for the wonderful help it is giving to us blind people and to all the peoples of the world."

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## Sunrise Over Japan

*Only in the perspective of history can the present developments in Japan be properly appraised. In the present short time-range we can see only details. But many of the details are most encouraging*

BY FREDERICK W. CROPP

LETTERS from far-off Japan arrive at the Society's New York headquarters these days in a steady stream.

*And the news is good!*

First of all, the Japan Bible Society has a new Secretary. The former Secretary, Rev. K. Hirai, has returned to his work as a Lutheran pastor.

The prewar General Secretary, Mr. T. Tanaka, has been persuaded to return, to become Acting General Secretary. His experience and wisdom will mean much in these difficult days of readjustment.

Then, a letter from Mr. Miyakoda, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Japan Bible Society, gives some idea of the task ahead. Mr. Miyakoda says: "Executive committees meet regularly and stand fast for the Bible Society's works. I cannot find any executive committee meeting like our Bible Society's which are attended by almost all members in such time of hard transportation."

Mr. Miyakoda continues by giving the most important news of all—the plans for printing Scriptures in Japan, Scriptures which are made possible by the paper sent by the American Bible Society, the gift of American Christians. About these plans Dr. Paul S. Mayer, liaison missionary representative in Tokyo, writes in February 1948:

*"We plan to publish this year*

50,000 copies of the Japanese-English parallel New Testament

50,000 copies of the Vest-Pocket Edition New Testament

20,000 copies of the Reference New Testament with Psalms

20,000 copies of a small New Testament with Psalms

2,000 each of the following Portions: Luke Genesis, Proverbs

"The paper which you are sending will be used for this purpose. The Portions will be printed in the Toyokawa plant, but the larger volumes will have to be done in Tokyo. The Psalms in colloquial Japanese will be published by the end of this month. This volume contains only a limited number of the Psalms and the book will consist of 102 pages."

How good all this news is may be seen by another quotation from Mr. Miyakoda's letter:

"I have written you that the circulation of the Bible throughout Japan stimulated the high tide for Bible classes. Still, this Bible-class movement is going on in great force. Missionaries who have come back to Japan are met with the most welcome hand such as they never experienced before. The pastors and teachers are busily occupied with the Bible classes. Bible reading has become a central work in Japanese churches.

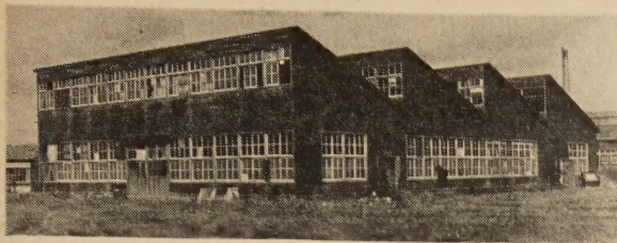
"We, the committees of the Bible Society, stand on belief that the circulation and reading of the Scriptures are the fundamental force for the democratization and Christianization of New Japan."

*Good news indeed!*

And now a closing word from Mr. Tanaka himself. When the Society received the almost unbelievable word that the Christian Scriptures ranked among the best sellers at Christmas time in Japan, Treasure Darlington wrote Mr. Tanaka, asking him what now could be done to make the Bible rank first



Mr. Tanaka answered, "There are many ways to do this. First, let all the people in Japan know the true



*The Toyokawa Printing Plant, formerly belonging to the Japanese Navy, to which the Japan Bible Society has been given a priority for the printing of Scriptures*

nature of the Bible. Very fortunately you have printed and sent to us enormous quantities of tracts, 'Seisho No Tebiki,' in the Japanese language—some 1,000,000 copies. (Note: These were supplied to be inserted in all Bibles and Testaments to aid readers in understanding the general purpose of the Bible.)

"By past experience before war, it was not easy task to circulate in Japan over 100,000 copies of New Testaments and Bibles. But after the war, during two years we could have circulated more than 1,250,000 copies of New Testaments and Bibles. At any rate, this is a marvelous matter of fact; I believe, to make Christianizing Japan, it is a golden opportunity. It is the time of all times for Japan. We should not throw away this tremendous chance and to ensure world's peace."

Christians of America have made a glorious contribution to Japan's present life and future hope by responding as they have to Japan's new-found hunger for the Word of God. We must continue to supply raw material for printing in Japan, but also, as General MacArthur has requested, not to cut off the flow of Bibles and Testaments printed in this country.

Then shall the Good News of the Gospel stimulate an increase of Good News from Japan.

## It Happened in an Airliner

*Read this short story and ask yourself why you should not carry in your traveling bag, your hand bag or the glove box of your car a small supply of Gospel Portions to distribute as opportunity offers*

BY ROME A. BETTS

RETURNING to New York from the Oakland, California Bible Reading Crusade, I fell to talking with the man who occupied the seat next to me. He was a man of pleasing appearance, with black, curly hair and swarthy features. He spoke with a distinct foreign accent.

He was, I quickly learned, from Yugoslavia, and had left his country because his political views differed from those of Marshal Tito. His presence in his native land was no longer welcomed by the government; nor was it likely to be, for long, good for his own health or safety.

In the course of our chat he made polite inquiry as to my business occupation. This, as it happens, is the question most frequently asked when casual acquaintances are struck up on our travels, and provides a good opportunity for witnessing to the importance of the work in which I am engaged.

I told my Yugoslav friend that I was a representative of the American Bible Society.

"Bible," he asked. "What do you mean, Bible?"—I said, "Have you never heard the word Bible before?" When he told me he had not, I spoke as elementally as I could upon so short notice. I said, "The Bible is a book of sacred writings and tell the life story of Jesus of Nazareth." Apparently this answer was equally puzzling, for the name of Jesus meant

nothing to my European companion. So I spent a few minutes in telling him as simply as I could something of Jesus Christ.

Then I had an inspiration. I happened to have in my brief case copies of the Gospels of St. Luke and St. John in Serbian. The reason I had them is because a large edition of them had just come from the press, and I had been showing these samples to the other Secretaries of the Society who had come to Oakland for the Bible Reading Crusade.

I gave my new-found friend one of these and asked, "Can you read this?"

He opened it and as he glanced at the first page his eyes lighted up. He recognized his own language. "Yes," he said eagerly, "I can read this."

After scanning through it for a few moments he turned to me and asked, "May I keep this?"

I assured him it was his and gave him the other Gospel to go with it, together with my business card.

By this time the other passengers were composing themselves for such sleep as it is possible to get in reclining chairs, so here this little story ends. God grant that it may prove to be but the beginning of a new and richer chapter in the life of a refugee from tyranny!

The seed is sown. God will provide the harvest.



# "Nun Danket Alle Gott"

*In the last seven years the American Bible Society has produced almost 5,000,000 Bibles, Testaments and Gospel Portions in German, most of which have, since the war's end, been donated to the German people. A book might be written about this extensive undertaking, which has imparted hope and elicited thousands of expressions of gratitude. A few instances are gathered here*

BY FRANCIS C. STIFLER

"YESTERDAY I received a wonderful copy of the Holy Bible sent me from your Geneva office in Switzerland. . . . Yesterday night I read the Gospel of St. Luke from the beginning to the end. What a stirring story! I was deeply moved, as always when reading the Gospel.

"Let me thank you, gentlemen, for your kind and friendly action. The book you sent me means a treasure to me. I must confess I am in love with it. May God the Lord bless you for what you have done for me!"



Mr. J. C. Thompson of the U.S. Military Government distributes the Society's Bibles

Max Schwarz, who wrote this letter, is presumably one of those devoutly Christian Germans—of whom there are thousands—who because of the ravages of war have been without a Bible for years. It is estimated that there is still a shortage of Bibles and Testaments in Germany of over 10,000,000 copies.

Even ministers of churches have no Bibles and in some cases no libraries to help them in their work. Dr. Christoph Lenz of Heidelberg is evidently one such. For he writes personally to one of the Society's Secretaries, not because he had received a German Bible, but for other help he needed in his work. He wrote:

Last fall I dared ask you if the American Bible Society would be able to help me with a Greek New Testament and an English Old Testament. Today I am so happy to tell you that I received this morning both the books from Geneva. Still I cannot believe that the Nestle Testament (Ancient Greek text) is mine again. I am so happy, and thankful too.

God bless your Society's work!

"In the hardest time of my life," writes Dr. Kiebling, who lives in the city of Kochel, "when I was in the internment camp I received through the 'Evangelische Hilfswerk' your Bible. It was during all the hard time such a help for me that I want to tell you all, my thanks for the wonderful gift."

Through quite a different channel comes word from young men who were former prisoners of war in this country. Mr. J. M. Dodd of San Francisco, in sending a gift to the Society, writes:

Three years ago the Department of Agriculture and the Army brought several hundred German prisoners to the community near our farm, and ten of the men were assigned under guard to aid in our harvest. Later the number was increased to sixteen. They were with us until the end of the year.

At Thanksgiving, with permission, we provided a complete turkey setup for all of them in our home. In San Francisco, a few weeks earlier, my wife called at your office here and obtained the last seven New Testaments in German which you had in stock. When the situation was explained, your representative refused payment for the Testaments. They were given to the prisoners at the Thanksgiving dinner.

Later the men were returned to Germany and assumed their civilian status. Since then we have heard from almost every one of them many times. A letter received only two weeks ago mentioned again the writer's thanks for, and comfort received from, the German Testament given him in California three years ago. This was a gift from the American Bible Society acting for someone who had wanted this done and who had sent the means of accomplishing the further spread of God's Word.

The accompanying picture was furnished by Mr. John C. Thompson, Chief of the Religious Affairs Division of the Education and Cultural Relations Branch of the American Military Government in the Berlin sector. The picture shows Mr. Thompson (on the left) distributing a portion of a shipment of 1,500 Bibles for distribution in Berlin. A news release announcing the expected arrival of these books brought a flood of requests to Mr. Thompson's office. The books were distributed through church channels to students in theological seminaries, to the YMCA and similar organizations. The expressions on the faces of the three recipients express, as words never could, what the arrival of these books means to a Bible-hungry nation.

Chaplain John H. Jones recently wrote the Society from Berlin just after a large shipment of German



Bibles had arrived. He said, "I can state without exaggeration that this is the greatest and the most appreciated help the German pastors have ever been given. . . . We hope and pray that we will soon receive further shipments which will help to carry on the fight for Him in this most important city." Chaplain Jones enclosed a letter of thanks in behalf of the Free Churches of Berlin, to whom a portion of the shipment was assigned. In part the letter reads:

All the pastors, our congregation members, and myself as the interpreter, want to express our heartfelt thanks . . .

The need is very great indeed, as most of the families have lost their property during the air raids and the street fighting in Berlin . . . Hundreds of letters of thanks which I receive every week prove and convince me that their understanding of the Bible grows deeper and that their lives have already been transformed by our worship services. All of these people have minor or mostly major burdens, sorrows and troubles. They are starving, and after freezing and fighting a hard fight to live through this hard period of time . . . But your help and care brightens their hard days and cheers them up. This is reason enough to be very, very thankful to all of you.

## The Bible Society to the Rescue

*Korea once had plenty of Bibles. Now she has almost none, except as we supply them for her impoverished people*

BY WILLIAM SCOTT

THE Korean Christian is a Bible Christian. He knows that man does not live by bread alone. That is why he makes a place in his home for the Bible along with the rice bowl. The rice bowl is there for his physical welfare; the Bible is there for the good of his soul.

I once visited a Christian family in the mountains. They asked me to stay for dinner, and then set a bowl of potatoes before me. That was all they had in the house. Yet when we had family worship before leaving, the man and his wife each produced a Bible and a hymn book.

But that was years ago, when Bibles were plentiful. Korea then stood fifth among the countries of the world where the Bible was the best seller. From the beginning of Christian missions up to the outbreak of the war, no fewer than twenty-three million copies of the Scriptures had been sold in Korea. Today there is a famine of the Word of God in Korea. It began during the war. The Japanese military wanted bullets, not Bibles. Bibles wouldn't help them win their kind of battles, nor did the ideas of the Bible fit their ideology. So they first limited and then forbade publication of the Scriptures, and finally closed the doors of the Bible House in Seoul. For four years there were no Bibles printed or sold. When liberation came and Bible work was resumed, the meager stock that remained was soon exhausted.

Meanwhile children of Christian homes were growing up—without Bibles. New converts were being won, but they could hardly be called Bible Christians, for there were no Bibles to place in their hands. The Korean people were looking for some word of encouragement and guidance, and the one Book which could best point the way was out of print.

It was then that the American Bible Society came to the rescue. Through the American Army—save the mark!—and with the blessing of the High Command—

shades of Japanese war-lords!—came 50,000 New Testaments in Korean, printed on American presses and shipped through Army chaplains, a free gift to the Korean Bible Society and the Korean people. They were indeed a godsend, and while they lasted they called forth many a "God Bless America."

But what were these among so many? Fifty thou-



*Dr. Kim Kiusic (in robe), Chairman of the Korean Interim Legislative Assembly and Elder of the West Gate Presbyterian Church, Seoul, accepts the first of a consignment of 60,000 Korean New Testaments sent by the American Bible Society and arriving in Seoul February 19, 1948. Looking on are (left to right) Dr. William Scott, author of the accompanying article, Associate Secretary of the Korean Bible Society and missionary of the United Church of Canada; Mr. E. T. Chung, Secretary of the Korean Bible Society, who made the presentation; and (at right) Lieutenant Colonel A. C. Wildman, 24th Corps Executive Chaplain, whose home is in Boonesville, Kentucky*

sand Bibles for thirty million people! They began going out in dozens to fill orders from churches and districts. They were later limited to ten to a certified group. Finally we had to ration them, strictly one to a



person. For a time we had to sit idly in the Bible House and comfort would-be purchasers with the assurance that a second shipment was on the way.

The American Bible Society has again come to the rescue with a second gift of 70,000 New Testaments. Part of this consignment has already arrived and the rest are on their way. Prominent Korean officials have expressed their deep appreciation of this munificent gift to their people, and the Korean press has given it due publicity.

An unparalleled opportunity lies before the Bible Societies in this day of Korea's emancipation and reconstruction. The Korean Church must remain a Bible-centered Church, helping to build the new Korea on the pattern given in the Book. The nation as a whole must be challenged to lay the foundations of their new democracy on the sure Word of God. The Christian population—500,000 strong—must be the shock troops of the Kingdom, going out with "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God," to combat the forces of corruption, immorality and irreligion which today threaten the nation. If we fail, one more country will be lost to the Christian world front; one more country will be absorbed into the anti-Christian bloc. To win out we must have vastly greater supplies of the Bible than we now have. Again the Bible Societies must come to the rescue.

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## It Fell on Good Ground

AMONG the many orders for Scriptures coming daily to the Society's various Offices, an occasional one merits publication. One such came to the South Atlantic Office in Richmond on March 15, 1948 from Wilmington, N.C. It consisted of nine pages of writing difficult to decipher and abounding in misspellings, all of which was acknowledged at the very top in the three words "Overlook bad writing." But the spirit of the letter was unmistakable. It was that of a man to whom God had spoken directly from the pages of His Word. The letter is indeed a classic of testimony to genuine conversion. It reads:

Dear Sir: I have read the gospel according to St. John. I was standing on Princess street of Wilmington and I was reading the word of God to myself and I cant tell you how long I had been there when a Jew came by and said to me, "Son what are you reading?" Then I said to him, "I'm read the book of God." Then he said to me "Son, that is a good book" then he went on his way. I staid there until 12 o'clock then I came home to my mother and fell on her and told her what I had read. I took my mother in my arms and went to crying. Since then God have told me to tell every body of the world to stop their wrong doing and go to God. I want them to know that one of God's children who was on the street in Wilmington found God in four hours reading His Word. I want you to give one to every governor and take a Gospel of John to the White House

and tell them to read it four hours. Then give one to each cop in New York City and tell them to read it four hours and see if they can be born again. I have two sisters in New York. I used to live with them. I'm a colored boy that was born in Wilmington, N.C., June 8th 1921. I'm 26 years old now and on this day of March 13, 1948, I have found God so I can talk to other people about it. If all of them dont understand I will talk to them about Him right on, on on and on, blest God. You know, I have been to New York and that is where I found this Book and I did not read it but I have now! Now I'm one of God's people and I know it, Blest God! Now I want you to send me as many of these Gospel according to St. John so I can give to the people out in the street and for the school children. My name is Rudolph St. George.

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## A Notable Acquisition to the Society's Library

THE American Bible Society is proud to announce that it has recently acquired a copy of one of the most important translations of the Bible ever published—the first edition of Luther's German Bible, printed in 1534 by Hans Lufft in Wittemberg. The Bible had been printed in German as early as 1466, to be followed by thirteen later editions in High German and four in Low German. All these, however, were translated from the Latin Vulgate, and done so literally as to be difficult to read and in various forms of speech used in the different localities. Luther, on the contrary, translated directly from the Hebrew and Greek and took great pains to seek out the living language of the people rather than just that of the court. The vitality of Luther's language is one of the reasons this Bible was taken into the hearts of the people, and why, in slightly modified form, it is still so widely read. Its publication stimulated translations into neighboring languages, notably the Dutch, Swedish, Danish and Icelandic; and Tyndale and Coverdale, who more than any other two scholars gave us our English Bible, freely consulted Luther's earlier New Testament and the Old Testament parts as they were published between 1522 and 1534. Luther's Bible came to America with our earliest German immigrants and was the first Bible printed in the United States in a European language (1743).

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## 1,090 Languages

Miss Margaret T. Hills, the Society's Librarian, reports that by the close of 1947 the Scriptures had been published in 1,090 languages, as follows: the entire Bible, 185; the complete New Testament, 241 more; at least a Gospel, or other whole book of the Bible, 574; selections only, 90. Ten new languages were added during 1947: six in Mexico; two in Assam, India; one in Africa; and one in Micronesia.



# MEMBERS' FORUM

[Annual Membership in the Society is secured through a gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. The Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Directorship and Memorial Membership. Particulars will be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

## With a gift for \$20 from Jackson, Michigan:

The last two issues of the *Record* have been particularly appealing.

In answer to that appeal I enclose herewith a small gift. (The donor had given \$2 a year in 1946 and 1947—Ed.)

## Through the Cincinnati Office, from an unknown friend:

Enclosed is a check for \$500 to be used in supplying the calls from Western Europe, Japan and China. I'm taking this out of my small principal because the call and the opportunity are so urgent and may not continue. These times are too terrible for Christians to plan for their own welfare. May God place every Bible, Testament and Scripture portion where it will save and feed souls!

## From Secretary Mortensen in Shanghai:

Today we have received the following communication from Miss Katie Murray of Chengchow, Honan, dated February 27th: "Enclosed is a check for fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), Chinese currency. This is a contribution from a young man who was converted by the reading of the New Testament, and he wishes it to be used in the work of printing more Bibles."

## From Alberta, Canada:

I am another one of those who love to read the *American Bible Society Record*. I am uplifted by reading the various accounts of how the Bible has been brought to a certain people or country, and how it has transformed lives and conditions among such . . . How thankful we are that God has raised up an organization and institution such as the American Bible Society to provide Scriptures to those in need of them! . . . I will enclose a gift to be used by your Society as you see best.

## From Burlington, New Jersey:

Enclosed please find my check for \$15 for Bibles for those who so sorely need and want them. I was very fortunate last week to receive a rebate on my income tax payment for 1947, and at once felt that I should send a tenth of this amount to this important work. This is given in memory of my youngest son, who was killed on November 17, 1942 on the U.S.S. *San Francisco* during the Battle of the Coral Sea.

## From Oak Park, Illinois:

Enclosed \$5 for my membership in the Society for the year 1948. I have been a member of this most wonderful Society for a number of years and am proud to show my membership card.

## With a Gift of \$200 from Gilbertsville, Pa.:

Enclosed is my annual gift to your work. Specifically I would like it to be used for printing Bibles and Testaments for Russia. If we are to ever get along with them we must depend on God's Word and our fellow Christians there.

## From Dallas Center, Iowa:

The March *Record* has deeply impressed me. The need is tragic . . . Am enclosing a check for \$50, which, as I understand, places me in the National Women's Club. Further please send me any material that I could use to distribute to those who should know of this work.

## From Decatur, Indiana:

Some time ago I ordered 40 of your booklets quoting John 3:16 in 24 languages. I passed them out to the children of the Mission Band of the Church here.

They have borne fruit and are returning to you in the form of \$10. Each child brought a quarter to purchase a New Testament for a child in Germany or Japan. This has been their incentive.

## From Lebanon, Oregon:

Enclosed you will find \$5 to apply on your wonderful work. I wish it was much more, and hope before the year is out to send you more.

I would not want to do without your wonderful little paper, the *Bible Society Record*. I get so much information and encouragement from it, and watch for its monthly visits, when it is read from cover to cover. Some of the articles I read over and over . . . Please enroll me as an Active Member until such a time as I can go higher.

## From Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:

Walking back from church this morning, I picked up the enclosed five-dollar bill from the sidewalk. As I did so, I thought, how nice to send this to the American Bible Society; because I had heard the pastor give a strong message based on I Peter 1:20-23.

So I take pleasure in sending you the enclosed gift. Whoever lost the money will never know that it has been given to so worthy a cause.

It is my pleasure to send you a gift of \$15 for the purpose of furnishing Bibles to as many as possible in Germany. That money is given by an elderly lady to whom I sent a tract of your Society in my Christmas letter.



# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Bible Society Record

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures*

**Editors: THE SECRETARIES**

*Address correspondence to the*

*Managing Editor*

**FRANCIS CARR STIFLER**

*450 Park Avenue*

*New York 22, N. Y.*



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### Daily Bible Readings

#### JUNE

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Daniel	1	16	Hosea	1:1-2:5
2	Daniel	2:1-23	17	Hosea	2:6-3:5
3	Daniel	2:24-49	18	Hosea	4
4	Daniel	3:1-25	19	Hosea	5
5	Daniel	3:26-4:18	20	Sunday	
6	Sunday			Hosea	6:1-7:10
	Daniel	4:19-37	21	Hosea	7:11-8:14
7	Daniel	5	22	Hosea	9
8	Daniel	6:1-23	23	Hosea	10
9	Daniel	6:24-7:22	24	Hosea	11:1-12:6
10	Daniel	7:23-8:14	25	Hosea	12:7-13:16
11	Daniel	8:15-9:19	26	Hosea	14
12	Daniel	9:20-10:17	27	Sunday	
13	Sunday			Joel	1
	Daniel	10:18-11:14	28	Joel	2:1-20
14	Daniel	11:15-35	29	Joel	2:21-3:8
15	Daniel	15:36-12:13	30	Joel	3:8-21

#### JULY

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Colossians	1	16	James	4
2	Colossians	2	17	James	5
3	Colossians	3	18	Sunday	
4	Independ. Day			Psalms	46;47
	Colossians 4;Psa.15		19	Psalms	48
5	I Thessalonians	1	20	Psalms	49
6	I Thessalonians	2	21	Psalms	50
7	I Thessalonians	3	22	Psalms	51
8	I Thessalonians	4	23	Psalms	52;53;54
9	I Thessalonians	5	24	Psalms	55;56;57
10	II Thessalonians 1;2		25	Sunday	
11	Sunday			Psalms	58;59;60
	II Thessalonians	3	26	Psalms	61;62;63;64
12	Philemon		27	Psalms	65;66;67
13	James	1	28	Psalms	68
14	James	2	29	Psalms	69
15	James	3	30	Psalms	70;71
			31	Psalms	72

### The Bible on the Air

Every Friday, through September 24, Secretary Stifler will be heard twice over the facilities of the American Broadcasting Company in his annual series entitled "Gems for Thought About the Bible." The morning program is given at 8:45 E.D.T., except over the master station WJZ in New York City, where it

will be heard at 8:55 E.D.T. The evening program is heard at 11:30 E.D.T. over both WJZ and the network. If, after making due adjustment for your time zone and for the possibility of change because of Daylight Saving Time, you do not get the program, consult your local ABC station. The evening program, being transcribed, is in some cases given at other hours of the day.

Leaflets describing the series will be supplied in reasonable quantities to pastors and others who can use them. Address the American Bible Society, Radio Department, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, New York.

\* \*

### Anniversary of the Italian Bible

On the fourth floor of the Bible House hangs a portrait of Giovanni Diodati, the scholar who gave the Italian people the translation of the Bible in their own language. At a great meeting held in the Judson Memorial Baptist Church in New York City last October, the 340th anniversary of the completion of this important translation was fittingly celebrated. The meeting was sponsored by the Italian Ministerial Association of New York City.

Giovanni Diodati, a brilliant scholar born in Geneva, Switzerland, received his degree of Sacred Theology at the age of nineteen. His translation work was done at about the same time the King James translators were working in England, being completed in 1607.

A memorable feature of the meeting last October was the presentation, by Secretary James V. Claypool of the American Bible Society and Secretary David J. Fant of the New York Bible Society, of 1,000 Italian New Testaments to the ministers of the Italian churches of New York City.

The Italian language is one of 185 into which the whole Bible has now been translated and published.

\* \*

### March Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-second year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, March 4, 1948, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Secretary Claypool.

Miss Hills made a report on the Bible Translators' Conference in Holland last

October and stated that Dr. and Mrs. Nida, who had gone to Africa last December investigating numerous translation problems, were due in Nairobi, Kenya, about this time.

Copies of the Tzeltal St. Mark, the latest "new" language, and of Navaho St. Mark and St. John, just printed, were presented.

A report was made on the Oakland Bible Reading Crusade from February 1-15, during which time the importance of the Bible, and its use, were stressed before civic organizations, high schools and other groups.

A letter from Korea appealing for large quantities of the Scriptures for use in that country was presented, together with a letter of appreciation of volumes of Scripture already received.

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### April Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-second year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, April 1, 1948, at 3:30 p.m., President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Edward H. Hume, M.D.

The Board learned with deep regret of the death of Mr. William W. Stewart, a member of the Board since 1946, and the following Memorial Minute was adopted:

The Board of Managers has learned with deep regret of the death on March 28, 1948, of Mr. William W. Stewart. It has gratefully appreciated his deep interest in the cause of the Society and in his all too brief time of service as a Manager. His intention to extend and increase his service to the Society was known to be a part of his plan of life. The Board extends its Christian sympathy to Mrs. Stewart and his family.

Page proof of the Managers' Report was presented and approved for publication.

To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.



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